

REMARKS:

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action mailed June 3, 2005.

Reconsideration of the application in view of this amendment in response thereto is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Parent (U.S. Pat. No. 5,765,851). The Parent reference discloses a towing apparatus that can be characterized as two back-to-back first and second yoke members 38, 40 that define rotation axes a, b, and c. The Parent device does not include an interconnecting mechanism having a spherically-shaped ball member having a radius and a ball member center point, and a body member having a main cavity with a main cavity center point and a radius of curvature, which is slightly greater than the radius of the ball member, and wherein the ball member is rotatively captured within the body member with the ball member center point and the main cavity center point coinciding with the interconnection central point.

On the other hand, the present invention does include an interconnecting mechanism having a spherically-shaped ball member having a radius and a ball member center point, and a body member having a main cavity with a main cavity center point and a radius of curvature, which is slightly greater than the radius of the ball member, and wherein the ball member is rotatively captured within the body member with the ball member center point and the main cavity center point coinciding with the interconnection central point.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the

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Parent reference. As a result, claim 1, and claims 2 through 4 dependent therefrom, should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 5-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-12 have been amended to be directly or indirectly dependent from amended claim 1 and should now be in condition for allowance.

It is noted with appreciation that claim 22 is allowed as originally submitted.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if it is felt that the prosecution of this application may be expedited thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

MERTON HAHNE et al

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Schoonover", with a stylized, flowing script.

Donald R. Schoonover, Reg. No. 34,924
4211 Rolling Hills Drive
Nixa, Missouri 65714-8771
Telephone (417)724-2188
Facsimile (417)724-2469